

# Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

## Division of Disease Prevention (DDP)

### Monthly Ebulletin



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**October 2017 Edition**

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#### AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Update:

Please note that the ADAP application has been updated to include a checklist of items needed to complete an application. The updated application can be found on the [ADAP webpage](#).

#### Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment:

The 2018 ACA Open Enrollment Period is from November 1, 2017 to December 15, 2017. This is a shortened 45-day open enrollment period. Kaiser, Optima, Care First, Piedmont, Anthem, and Cigna are the carriers offering Marketplace plans for 2018. Clients will receive two letters customized for those re-enrolling and those eligible to enroll in insurance plans. The second letter will include information about carrier options.

Clients should update information in their [Healthcare.gov](#) account if their income, address, or any other information has changed. Clients should make these changes now, and not wait until it's time to choose a plan. VDH will provide extra enrollment assistance this year through a new contract. Case managers should be ensuring that clients' Ryan White/ADAP eligibility information is up to date before open enrollment starts.

#### Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP) Open Enrollment:

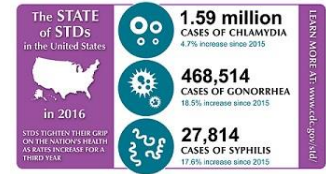
Medicare Open Enrollment is from October 15, 2017 to December 7, 2017. Letters have been sent to clients already enrolled in MPAP and those that need to enroll in MPAP. Documents needed for enrollment include:

- Front and back copy of Medicare card;
- Front and back copy of Part C or Part D card;
- Proof of 2016 monthly premium in the form of the coupon booklet or if AARP client, letter sent to client with premium amount; and

- Low income subsidy status Letter, if applicable.

## The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2016 STD Surveillance Report

CDC recently released the [Sexually Transmitted Disease \(STD\) Surveillance Report, 2016](#). For a third year in a row, rates for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis increased. While STDs can impact anyone, the report shows how disparities are deepening for the hardest-hit and most vulnerable groups. These groups include youth, men who have sex with men (MSM), and pregnant women. Community collaboration is needed to reverse these trends. Health departments, healthcare providers, community organizations, community members, CDC, and other stakeholders need to work together to put in place prevention strategies that are proven effective.



## HIV Care Guidelines for People Displaced by Disasters

The National Institutes of Health updated the *Guidance for Non-HIV-Specialized Providers Caring for Persons with HIV Displaced by Disasters* on August 31, 2017. This revision includes recommendations based on the current standard of care for people living with HIV, and specific guidance on management of HIV infection during pregnancy. Also included are:

- Intake forms that clinicians can use when evaluating a patient with HIV,
- A collection of web-based resources with information on treating and preventing HIV infection, and
- A listing of temporary regimen substitutions for antiretroviral medications in case of supply shortages.

View the guidelines [online](#).

Additionally, the Department of Health and Human Services has a website with resources that can help individuals and communities respond to a disaster. You can access this guidance [here](#).

Virginia's Ryan White Part B program is able to assist evacuees from other states and U.S. territories who are eligible for Ryan White Part B programs. For more information, contact the ADAP hotline at (855) 362-0658. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Mary Browder](#) at (804) 864-7199.

## Greater Than AIDS Casting Call



Greater Than AIDS is casting for an upcoming campaign about PrEP. They are looking for gay men and transgender women between the ages of 18-35 who are currently taking PrEP to share their experiences. The featured individuals will be included in a multi-media campaign that will be released in the Spring/Summer of 2018 in select markets across the United States.

If you or someone you know is interested, you can apply at [www.greaterthan.org/apply](http://www.greaterthan.org/apply). Completed applications are due by **October 29, 2017**. If there are any questions, please contact [Caroline Jackson](#).

### National DIS Certification Milestone

The National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) recently shared the achievement of a major milestone. This was NCSD's effort to establish a national certification program for Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS), of which a key component over the past three years was determining the most appropriate model for DIS certification. Based on findings and expert consultation, NCSD recommended the development of a test-based model.

Check out this [video](#) to learn more about DIS certification and the efforts that were undertaken.

### PrEP Marketing Contract Awarded

Greater Than AIDS began implementing *Let's Talk About PrEP* in September 2017 in Eastern Virginia. While the campaign will continue in the Eastern Health Region of Virginia, it will also expand statewide. ndp, formerly known as Neathawk, Dubuque, and Packett, was awarded a contract to place media buys of the *Let's Talk About PrEP* campaign throughout Virginia (excluding the Eastern Health Region) to expand messaging and increase awareness of PrEP. For questions about the campaign, please contact [Chris Barnett](#), Social Media Coordinator.

### CDC Releases "Dear Colleague" Letter on Syphilis Case Definition Revision

Dr. Gail Bolan released a "[Dear Colleague](#)" letter detailing revisions to the surveillance case definition for syphilis that will take effect January 1, 2018. The new case definition ensures that DDP has the most accurate surveillance and clinical manifestation information to better address the infection and its transmission. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and CDC hosted a webinar in September that focused on the changes to reporting syphilis stages. A [second webinar](#), focusing on the clinical manifestations of syphilis and how to report them, will be held on November 7, 2017 at 2 pm EST. Recordings of both webinars will be posted on the CSTE and CDC websites.

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## PERSONNEL

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### Welcome

HIV Care Services welcomes **Leila Grubbs** as an HIV Services Coordinator. Leila has a Master's of Social Work degree and over 20 years of experience in counseling, social and human services, and program management. She brings a wealth of expertise in development, implementation, and evaluation of training, oversight of workflow and improvement processes, and organizational development. You can reach Leila at (804) 864-7219 or [leila.grubbs@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:leila.grubbs@vdh.virginia.gov).

**Jayondre Sims** joins DDP as the new ADAP Medical File Clerk. He studied Business Administration at Norfolk State University. Jayondre, who likes to be called Jay, is located in the Upper Basement and sometimes can be found on the Mezzanine floor.

Please welcome **Vencia Josephat** as the new Quality Management Specialist for HIV Care Services. Ms. Josephat was in the financial field for the last 12 years as a Corporate Trainer, training new employees and assisting with improving corporate performances. In her position, she will be supporting the development and implementation of funded agencies' Quality Management Plans and Quality Improvement projects. You can reach Vencia at (804) 864-7951 or [vencia.josephat@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:vencia.josephat@vdh.virginia.gov).

HIV Care Services welcomes **Gloria Robinson** as an HIV Services Coordinator. Gloria brings over 20 years of experience in HIV services and human services administration from her time in North Carolina and Connecticut. She's received her Masters of Social Work degree and Bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. Gloria can be reached at (804) 864-7546 or [gloria.robinson@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:gloria.robinson@vdh.virginia.gov).



**Herminia (Grace) Nieves** joins DDP as the new Assistant Director for Medication Access for HIV Care Services. Grace has a Doctorate in Public Health, as well as a Master's degree with a dual concentration in Epidemiology and Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety. She recently completed an extended Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists SHINE Health Systems Integration Fellowship at the Virginia Department of Health. Grace can be reached at (804) 864-8022 or [herminia.nieves@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:herminia.nieves@vdh.virginia.gov).

HIV Care Services welcomes the new on-boarding team of **ADAP Operations Technicians (AOTs)**. AOTs conduct ADAP eligibility and recertification in accordance with the most current Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) guidance for over 6,000 clients. AOTs also support daily operations of the medication assistance program, including responding to and managing client inquiries that come through the Medication Eligibility Hotline, referring clients to resources, resolving medication access issues, assisting with insurance enrollment, and contacting clients to obtain additional application information.

#### **Addendum**

**Linda Whiteley**, Nurse Practitioner Consultant, who joined DDP last month can now be reached at her permanent phone number of (804) 864-7328.

#### **Spotlight: VA ADAP Team**

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Team within the HIV Care Services unit oversees eligibility and recertification processes for over 6,000 clients statewide to access life-saving medications for the treatment of HIV and related illnesses. With

the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014, the team also ensures clients enroll and remain enrolled in insurance each year to not only access their medications but access additional healthcare services outside of the Ryan White service options.



**VA ADAP Staff Photo**

Top Row: Kimberly Scott, John Angles, Kris Woetzel, Jonathan Albright, Jeannie Rector, Matt Giattino, Bernard Stackhouse, Tina Gorman, Lakeya Smith, Vashauna Woolridge, Brandi Taylor, Amanda Hetmanski, Ashley Newton, Damarious Perry.

Bottom Row: Sandra Balanzategui, Anyeli Ramos, Jay Sims, Carrie Rhodes, Tania Butler, Allieson Albright, Angela Beasley, Bailey Mortimer, Grace Nieves, Jaron Banks, Sebrina Bishop, Kimberly Eley, Aaron Johnson.